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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Van Schepdael

Examiner: Husband, Sarah E.

Application No.: 10/521,906

Group Art: 1746

Filed: January 20, 2005

Docket: 903-123 PCT/US

Confirmation No: 1676

Date: June 20, 2006

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE PIECE-WISE
OR BATCH-WISE REFINING OF PIECES OF A
SUBSTRATE, IN PARTICULAR A TEXTILE SUBSTRATE,
UNDER HIGH PRESSURE

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an
envelope, addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: June 20, 2006

Signature: Marcy H. Mancuso/ Marcy H. Mancuso

Commissioner for Patents
Office of Initial Patent Examination
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

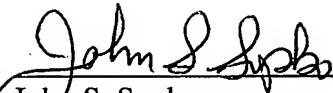
SECOND REQUEST FOR CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT

Sir:

On August 12, 2005, the attorney for the Applicant filed a request for an updated Filing Receipt. A copy of that request is enclosed herewith. The attorney for the Applicant has not received a copy of the updated or corrected Filing Receipt for the above-referenced application. Please provide Applicant's undersigned attorney with a substitute copy of the updated or corrected Filing Receipt at the address indicated below or by facsimile at (973) 331-1717.

Applicant: Van Schepdael
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Docket No: 903-123 PCT/US
Page 2

Respectfully submitted,


John S. Sopko
Registration No.: 41,321
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700



PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Van Schepdael

Examiner: Unassigned

Application No.: 10/521,906

Group Art: 1743

Filed: January 20, 2005

Docket: 903-123 PCT/US

Confirmation No: 1676

Date: August 12, 2005

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR THE
PIECE-WISE OR BATCH-WISE REFINING
OF PIECES OF A SUBSTRATE, IN PARTICULAR
A TEXTILE SUBSTRATE, UNDER HIGH PRESSURE

I hereby certify this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope,
addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
22313-1450.

Dated: August 12, 2005

Signature: Barbara Thomas

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CORRECTION OF APPLICATION
FILING RECEIPT

Sir:

In reviewing the Filing Receipt for the above-identified application, we uncovered an error. The foreign priority data is missing. Accordingly, we ask that this correction be made to the Filing Receipt as indicated hereinbelow.

Under Foreign Applications, the entry should read "Netherlands 1021142 07/24/2002".

Attached is a copy of the original filing receipt with the above referenced correction noted therein. Also attached is a copy of the previously filed Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney and a copy of a previously filed Preliminary Amendment evidencing the foreign

Applicant: Van Schepdael
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Page 2

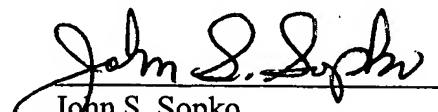
priority claim. Also enclosed is a copy of the return postcard evidencing receipt of the same by the Office.

In view of the above, correction of the Filing Receipt is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If there are any questions with respect to this matter, please direct them to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Sopko
Registration No.: 41,321
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700

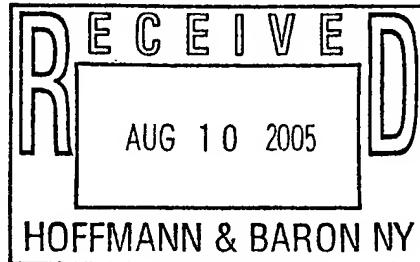


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPL NO.	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY.DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
10/521,906	01/20/2005	1743	900	903-123 PCT/US	3	16	1

23869
 HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
 6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE
 SYOSSET, NY 11791



CONFIRMATION NO. 1676
FILING RECEIPT

 OC000000016385767

Date Mailed: 08/04/2005

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Ludo Jean Maria Mathilde Van Schepdael, Herent, BELGIUM;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 23869.**Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant**

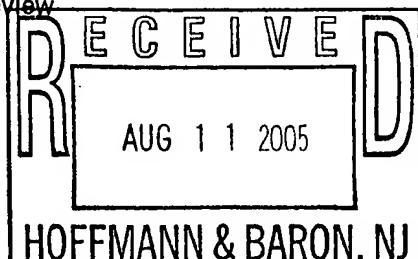
This application is a 371 of PCT/NL03/00512 07/11/2003

Foreign Applications

Netherlands 1021142 07/24/2002

Projected Publication Date: To Be Determined - pending completion of Security Review**Non-Publication Request:** No**Early Publication Request:** No**Title**

Device and method for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a substrate, in particular a textile substrate, under high pressure

Preliminary Class



Applicant: van Schepdael, L.J.M.M.

Application No: Unassigned

Filing Date: Herewith

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Certificate of Mailing Dated: January 20, 2005

Express Mail Label Number: EV481316471US

Attorney Docket: 903-123 PCTUS

DT07 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 JAN 2005

10/521906

The U. S. Patent and Trademark Office date stamp will acknowledge receipt of the following:

- (X) Transmittal Letter to the US Designated/Elected Office Concerning a Filing Under U.S.C. 371 (2pgs)
- (X) Preliminary Amendment (9 pages)
- (X) Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
- (X) Copy of WO 2004/009897 A1
- (X) IDS w/Form 1449 (3 pgs) and 3 references
- (X) Assignment
- (X) Itemized Postcard
- (X) Check \$1,040.00
- (X) Change of Correspondence Address Form (1 pg)
- (X) Combined Oath and Declaration
- (X) Assignment Recordation Cover Sheet

JSS/kg (0131)



PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: van Schepdael, L.J.M.M.

Examiner: Unassigned

Application No.: Unassigned

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

Docket: 903-123 PCT/US

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR
THE PIECE-WISE OR BATCH-
WISE REFINING OF PIECES OF
A SUBSTRATE, IN
PARTICULAR A TEXTILE
SUBSTRATE, UNDER HIGH
PRESSURE

Dated: January 20, 2005

Confirmation No.: Unassigned

Date: January 20, 2005 Label No. EV481316471US

I hereby certify that on the date indicated above I deposited this paper or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE to ADDRESSEE" service.

on January 20, 2005

K.J. Goodhand/ K.J. Goodhand
Name (Print) (Signature)

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING
NATIONAL PHASE FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. §371

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this submission.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 5 of this submission.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this submission.

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Application No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: Herewith
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A. Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following immediately after the title of the invention:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/NL2003/000512, filed July 11, 2003, which claims the benefit of Netherlands Application No. NL 1021142, filed July 24, 2002, the contents of which is incorporated by reference herein.

Please add the following new paragraph immediately prior to page 1, line 7, and after the Cross Reference to Related Applications, as follows:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 7, as follows:

The invention relates to a device for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a substrate, for instance a textile substrate, under high pressure with a treatment medium ~~according to the preamble of claim 1.~~

Please add the following new paragraph immediately prior to page 1, line 11, as follows:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

Please add the following new paragraph immediately prior to page 1, line 37, as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

Applicant: van Schepdael, L.J.M.M.
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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3, as follows:

This object is achieved according to the present invention by a device ~~according to claim~~
~~for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a substrate with a treatment medium~~
~~under high pressure, comprising:~~

~~- a substantially cylindrical pressure vessel, which is provided with a closable feed aperture for placing the pieces of substrate in said pressure vessel;~~

~~- a pipe system for feeding the treatment medium to and discharging it from said pressure vessel under high pressure during treatment;~~

wherein

said cylindrical pressure vessel is provided on at least one of its two end faces with an aperture that can be closed by a lid, which aperture forms said feed aperture,

said device comprises retaining means for keeping said lid in place in a sealing manner during treatment,

and said retaining means comprise a bounding frame that is circumferentially closed, with two interconnected end pieces situated at a distance from each other, which end pieces in a closed position can be slid over said pressure vessel and thereby retain said end faces of said pressure vessel in its axial direction. In this case a bounding frame that is closed around its circumference is provided with two interconnected end pieces situated at a distance from each other. The bounding frame and the pressure vessel can be slid into each other, in which case the end faces of the pressure vessel are retained in the axial direction by the two end pieces of the bounding frame. Owing to the fact that a feed aperture that can be closed by a lid is provided on at least one of the two end faces of the pressure vessel, the lid is advantageously retained directly by the bounding frame in the axial direction. The axial pressure forces acting upon the lid are advantageously dissipated by the bounding frame, and therefore do not act upon the cylinder wall of the pressure vessel. The cylinder wall therefore only has to withstand the radial pressure forces acting upon it. As a result of this separation of axial and radial forces, the design of the pressure vessel walls becomes simpler. For example, in the case of vessel walls of composite materials, glass windings or carbon fibre windings over the end faces of the pressure vessel or

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with an axial component can be dispensed with, owing to the fact that only tangential cylinder wall windings are needed. A vessel having walls of composite materials has the advantage that the vessel can be given a better thermic isolation and a lower thermic inertia, which leads to a shorter cycle time, improved steering and control, and energy saving of the refining process.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 27, as follows:

The invention also relates to a method for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a substrate, for instance a textile substrate, under high pressure with a treatment medium ~~according to claims 13-15~~, and to the use of a device ~~according to claim 16~~ for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of textile substrates.

Please add the following new paragraph immediately prior to page 3, line 31, as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

Please add the following new paragraph immediately prior to page 4, line 4, as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS:

Please amend the section description for the claims on the top of page 9, as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: CLAIMS

Applicant: van Schepdael, L.J.M.M.
Application No.: Unassigned
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Page 5

B. Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17. (new) Device for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a substrate with a treatment medium under high pressure, comprising:

- a substantially cylindrical pressure vessel, which is provided with a closable feed aperture for placing the pieces of substrate in said pressure vessel;
- a pipe system for feeding the treatment medium to and discharging it from said pressure vessel under high pressure during treatment;

wherein

 said cylindrical pressure vessel is provided on at least one of its two end faces with an aperture that can be closed by a lid, which aperture forms said feed aperture

 said device comprises retaining means for keeping said lid in place in a sealing manner during treatment,

 and said retaining means comprise a bounding frame that is circumferentially closed, with two interconnected end pieces situated at a distance from each other, which end pieces in a closed position can be slid over said pressure vessel and thereby retain said end faces of said pressure vessel in its axial direction.

Claim 18. (new) Device according to claim 17, in which said lid comprises a cylindrical wall part that in a position closing said feed aperture extends in said axial direction along an inner circumferential wall of said pressure vessel,

 in which at least one sealing ring is provided between said cylindrical wall part and said inner circumferential wall of said pressure vessel, and

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in which said sealing ring permits a slide of said lid in said axial direction relative to said inner circumferential wall of said pressure vessel.

Claim 19. (new) Device according to claim 17, in which said lid is provided with a holding part, for the purpose of removing said cylindrical wall part from said pressure vessel in said axial direction.

Claim 20. (new) Device according to claim 17, in which said bounding frame comprises two straight and two arch-shaped parts.

Claim 21. (new) Device according to claim 20, in which two substantially semi-cylindrical retaining pieces, which in said closed position lie between said arch-shaped parts of said bounding frame and said end faces of said pressure vessel, are provided.

Claim 22. (new) Device according to claim 17, in which said pipe system opens into said lid.

Claim 23. (new) Device according to claim 22, in which a slotted opening is provided in said bounding frame, for the accommodation in a sliding manner in said opening of a part of said pipe system opening into said lid.

Claim 24. (new) Device according to claim 17, in which said two end faces of the pressure vessel are provided with feed apertures that are closable by lids.

Claim 25. (new) Device according to claim 17, in which said bounding frame is made of composite material, in particular of fibre-reinforced material.

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Filing Date: Herewith

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Claim 26. (new) Device according to claim 25, in which said bounding frame is made of wound fibre-reinforced material, in particular of wound glassfibre-reinforced plastic.

Claim 27. (new) Device according to claim 17, in which the pipe system connects to feed means for feeding in supercritical or near critical fluid.

Claim 28. (new) Device for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of textile substrate, according to claim 17.

Claim 29. (new) Method for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a substrate with a treatment medium under high pressure with a device according to claim 17, comprising the following steps:

- placing one or more pieces of said substrate in said pressure vessel;
- closing said feed aperture by putting on said lid;
- sliding said pressure vessel and said bounding frame into each other;
- feeding said treatment medium to said pressure vessel at high pressure for a desired cycle time;
- after completion of said cycle time sliding said pressure vessel and the bounding frame out of each other and opening said lid; and
- removing said refined substrate from said pressure vessel.

Claim 30. (new) Method for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a textile substrate according to claim 29, comprising the step:

- placing one or more pieces of said textile substrate in said pressure vessel.

Claim 31. (new) Method according to claim 29, in which said treatment medium comprises CO₂, N₂O, lower alkanes such as ethane and propane and mixtures thereof, in particular in a near critical or supercritical state.

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Claim 32. (new) Use of a device according to claim 17, for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of textile substrate.

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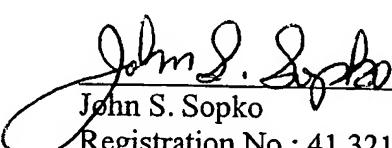
C. Remarks/Arguments:

The claims have been non-narrowingly amended to remove multiple dependencies and to conform with standard U.S. practice. This application is believed to be in condition for examination. Favorable action thereon is therefore respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments concerning the above, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461.

Respectfully submitted,


John S. Sopko

Registration No.: 41,321
Attorney for Applicants

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700

Combined Declaration for Patent Application and Power of Attorney

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Device and method for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a substrate, in particular a textile substrate, under high pressure.
the specification of which (check one)

is attached hereto;

was filed in the United States under 35 U.S.C. §111 on _____, as U.S. Appln. No. _____ *; or

was/will be filed in the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. §371 by entry into the U.S. national stage of an international (PCT) application, PCT/NL2003/000512; filed July 11, 2003, entry requested on _____ *; national stage application received U.S. Appln. No. _____ *; §371/§102(e) date _____ * (* if known)

and was amended on _____ (if applicable)
(include dates of amendments under PCT Art. 19 and 34 if PCT)

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; and I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) all information known by me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 (a)-(d) and 365 (b) of any prior foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any prior PCT application(s) designating a country other than the U.S., listed below with the "Yes" box checked, and have also identified below, by checking the "No" box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

1021142 (Number)	the Netherlands (Country)	July 24, 2002 (Day Month Year Filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
(Number)	(Country)	(Day Month Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional applications listed below:

_____ (Application No.)	_____ (Day Month Year Filed)
_____ (Application No.)	_____ (Day Month Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any prior U.S. non-provisional application(s) or under §365(c) of any prior PCT international application(s) designating the U.S., listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in such U.S. or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the PTO all information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

_____ (Application No.)	_____ (Day Month Year Filed)	(Status: patented, pending, abandoned)
_____ (Application No.)	_____ (Day Month Year Filed)	(Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioners to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

All of the practitioners associated with Customer Number 23869

Direct all correspondence to the address associated with Customer Number 23869, which is presently:

Hoffmann & Baron, LLP
1055 Parsippany Blvd.
NJ 07054 PARSIPPANY
U.S.A.

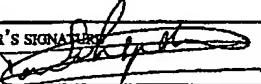
The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. Attorneys or Agents appointed herein to accept and follow instructions from Exter Polak & Charlouis B.V., P.O. Box 3241, 2280 GE RIJSWIJK, The Netherlands as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. Attorneys or Agents and the undersigned. In the event of a change of the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. Attorneys or Agents appointed herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

Title: Device and method for the piece-wise or batch-wise refining of pieces of a substrate, in particular a textile substrate, under high pressure.

U.S. Application filed _____, Serial No. _____

PCT Application filed July 11, 2003, Serial No. PCT/NL2003/000512

I hereby further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR van SCHEPDAEL, Ludo Jean Maria Mathilde		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE 	DATE November 23, 2004
RESIDENCE HERENT, Belgium		CITIZENSHIP Belgian	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS 45, Tweebruggenstraat 3020 HERENT Belgium			
FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
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FULL NAME OF SIXTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF SEVENTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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ALL INVENTORS MUST REVIEW APPLICATION AND DECLARATION BEFORE SIGNING. ALL ALTERATIONS MUST BE INITIALED AND DATED BY ALL INVENTORS PRIOR TO EXECUTION. NO ALTERATIONS CAN BE MADE AFTER THE DECLARATION IS SIGNED. ALL PAGES OF DECLARATION MUST BE SEEN BY ALL INVENTORS.



Applicant: Van Schepdael

Application No: 10/521,906

Filing Date: January 20, 2005

Examiner: Unassigned Art Unit: 1743

Certificate of Mailing Dated: August 12, 2005

Confirmation No: 1676

Attorney Docket: 903-123 PCT/US

The U. S. Patent and Trademark Office date stamp will:

- (X) Request for Correction of Filing Receipt **3** pgs)
- (X) Copy of Filing Receipt showing change (1 pg)
- (X) Copy of Declaration (2 pgs)
- (X) Copy of Postcard of filing of application (1 pg)
- (X) Copy of Preliminary Amendment filed January 20, 2005
- (X) Postcard

JSS/bjt (0131)

Applicant: Van Schepdael

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- (X) Copy of Preliminary Amendment filed January 20, 2005 (9 pgs)
- (X) Postcard

JSS/bjt (0131)

